

CONFIDENTIAL

August 10, 1955

Dear Allen:

We have been asked to comment on the memorandum dated August 4, entitled "The Organizational Proposal for the Production of Intelligence on International Communism," which I understand is before you now for decision.

25X1A We find this proposal an accurate reflection of the conclusions which for the most part [ ] and I agreed upon at the time of the earlier discussion of the survey. In agreeing to this memorandum, however, I do wish to comment on a couple of points concerning which I am sure our views are the same, but which seem to me to contain possible ambiguities which might permit others to find meanings not really intended.

First, the text nowhere clearly indicates that the distinctions of function there made rest upon distinctions of "treatment" and "consumer," rather than upon distinctions of "subject." All three groups of producers are obviously concerned with all aspects of communism, notably with organization and activities of parties, cells and fronts, and each will in fact be serving to a lesser or greater extent both policy and operations consumers. The distinction between State and the WDP group is that the latter primarily serves "operations" and therefore goes into more detail. This difficult delineation is particularly important in paragraph 2(b). I hope I am correct in assuming that the function there described is not so much a separate and exclusive field of responsibility as one which relates to and supplements the subjects and function described in 2(a). In other words, I find it wholly consistent to believe that we would continue to support, where we can, your operations people as well as USIA, and that both intelligence groups would, with a minimum of duplication, be working on aspects of Communist "organization."

Secondly, in paragraph 5, I regret to see "intelligence" listed as separate from "estimation," when we all, I think, agree that estimating is an indispensable and integral subdivision of intelligence. In this connection, I feel I should point out that we find the senior research and planning unit to be the least convincing part of the proposal, for we believe that there are apt and established settings already avail-

The Honorable  
Allen W. Dulles,  
Director of Central Intelligence.

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able for activity of this sort both in terms of policy and of intelligence. However, we have considered only the intelligence aspects of the proposals, and have not discussed with others the policy responsibilities of this staff, assuming that it tied in more directly with NSC, OCB or PCG.

Finally, the statement concerning support funds for State leaves it uncertain whether this proposal applies to the current year alone or to a continuing plan. I hope the statement of support was meant to be in "per annum" terms.

I am delighted that this program, to which we have looked forward as a major contribution to improved intelligence production, is about to be decided. You may be sure that we shall cooperate in pushing it with maximum speed.

Sincerely,

W. Park Armstrong, Jr.